



June 24, 2004

Pawtucket man is charged with illegal possession of firearms

The United States Attorney has charged **Albert Robertson**, 32, of Pawtucket, with being a felon in possession of firearms. Robertson was arrested last month after he allegedly received two handguns near the Bonanza Bus Station in Providence on May 10.

The Office of the United States Attorney and Monty J. Monteiro, Resident Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced a one-count information, which was filed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence. Robertson, of 64 South Union Street, has been detained at the Wyatt Federal Detention Center, Central Falls, since his arrest and will be brought into U.S. District Court for arraignment.

The information alleges that on May 10, Robertson, having been previously convicted of a felony, possessed two firearms, a 9mm pistol and a .357 caliber revolver. The U.S. Attorney brought the information in lieu of presenting the case to a grand jury.

The information supplants a complaint lodged against Robertson at the time of his arrest. According to an affidavit supporting that complaint, on May 10 Robertson met with another individual in the parking lot of the Bonanza station and gave that individual \$200 and a quantity of cocaine in exchange for the handguns, which the individual placed in Robertson's van.

ATF agents and local police stopped Robertson's van as he was leaving the parking lot and arrested him.

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An information is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the statutory maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

The **ATF Firearms Trafficking and Violent Crimes Task Force, Pawtucket Police, and Providence Police** investigated the case. Investigators from **Providence Police, Warwick Police, Rhode Island State Police**, and the **Rhode Island Attorney General's Office** are assigned to the ATF task force. The **U.S. Postal Inspection Service** provided assistance in the investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch is prosecuting the case. It is being prosecuted as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes.

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